

Commissioners; The California Performance Review  
c/o Office of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 9581-0000

I am writing in strong opposition to the recommendation contained in the California Performance Review (CPR) report to eliminate the Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention and Treatment Task Force, as established by AB 1220 (Berg). The charge of the Task Force is to complete a State Master Plan for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention and Treatment. The existence of a Task Force directed Master Plan is necessary to secure crucial categorical funding for a comprehensive cardiovascular health program from the CDC.

Although the mission of the CPR is to streamline California's government by removing duplicative and wasteful costs through a responsive and accountable government structure, elimination of the Task Force does not further this goal. In addition, the rationale behind the cut is faulty. It assumes no appointments have been made to the Task Force, giving authority to determine a need for the Task Force to the Department of Human Services. However President ProTem Burton and Assembly Speaker Nunez have already appointed five members to the Task Force.

The Task Force should remain in place as it benefits both the State budget and the people of California for the following reasons:

The Task Force relies entirely on private funding. \$163,000 has been raised thus far from the American Heart Association, Kaiser Permanente, and AstraZeneca. This funding is consistent with the language in AB 1220, which requires the Task Force to be completely funded by private dollars.

The job of the Task Force is to complete a State Master Plan, which would qualify California and position our state more favorably to receive up to \$1 million annually in funds for a cardiovascular health program.

The Task Force is not permanent -- it will disband by November of 2005, when the State Master Plan is complete.

Cardiovascular disease costs the State \$14.2 million each year in medical expenses and loss of productivity. Eliminating the Task Force will not make the State budget more efficient. If anything, this cut could hurt the future health of Californians and increase medical costs to the State. I urge you to consider these factors and preserve the Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention and Treatment Task Force. Thank you for your consideration on this important issue.

Terry Bott  
1457 N Pacific Avenue  
Glendale, CA 91202-1655  
phn# [818] 549-9790